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Poloncarz: Collins' claims are 'nothing more than political hyperbole'

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Today, Erie County Comptroller Mark C. Poloncarz issued a report analyzing the Erie County Legislature's proposed amendments to the 2011 county budget, which restore \$4 million to the libraries and \$1.2 million to local cultural agencies. The amendments, which were funded by cuts in other areas of the budget that the Legislature deemed nonessential, were **characterized** by Erie County Executive Chris Collins as irresponsible. Furthermore, in a series of **radio advertisements** and robo-calls, Collins suggested that the Legislature's amendments (which actually decrease the county's 2011 budget by about \$100,000), would result in a tax increase.

Legislature democrats and the local cultural community strenuously countered that notion, characterizing it as a scare tactic meant to frighten constituents into supporting cultural funding cuts. Now Poloncarz, a political rival to Collins, has released a report analyzing those additions. Poloncarz found that the "cuts and adoptions were enacted appropriately by the Legislature, within its full power, and no tax increase should occur as a result of the Legislature's actions."

"Any statements that the 2011 Amended Budget, as adopted by the Legislature, would result in a tax increase are not based in fact and are nothing more than political hyperbole," Poloncarz wrote earlier in the report.

Read the whole thing [here](#):

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